Design Resource

Tribal Lady Bottle Craft - Nagpur, Maharashtra

Utility Handicraft

by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B.
NID, Bengaluru

Source:
https://www.dsource.in/resource/tribal-lady-bottle-craft-nagpur-maharashtra

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Introduction

According to Census 1991, from 313 kinds of nomad tribes and 198 tribal groups, the government has recorded a population of 73.18 lakhs who resides in the state of Maharashtra for ages. These tribes were mainly found in the hilltops move in caravans across the state in search of livelihood. The major tribes that are found here are Gond Madia, Bhil, Koli, Warli, Halba, and Chaudhri, who still practice a primitive lifestyle. Though they mostly inhabit the hilly areas, their wandering has made them noticeable all over the state. Similarly, their cultural aspects and traditions also infiltrate, thus largely enriching the Maharashtrian culture.

Due to their wandering nature, the community lacks education and hence finds it difficult to adjust to the settled society. Maharashtra's most prominent tribal community is Warlis, which follows a unique set of cultures and customs created by their ancestors that are different from others. They are well known for their Warli paintings, which depict nature and village life in abundance. While the Bhil people, another indigenous group, follow farming for survival, they were traditionally expert hunters by profession, often found in the deep forests. They are very religious people following Hinduism and worships deities like Sitla Matta and Mogra Deo. Gond Maria community functions within their clan but doesn't marry from their immediate family. Instead, they choose multiple spouses from cross-cousins to build their generations. Their occupation mainly includes hunting, farming, and cattle sales. The other most notable ethnic group from Maharashtra is the Kolis. The folk dance of this tribe is famous, and they are also known for their cuisines. Halba community also resides in other states which share borders with Maharashtra. Though their main livelihood is based on animal husbandry and cultivation, their wood carvings and bronze crafts are in great demand in the market. Some of the artisans from the group are also into trading various forest products, especially bamboo crafts. Chaudhris used to make their living out of weaving and jewelry making previously, but now many of them have shifted to the cities and directly lead a contemporary lifestyle.

Place

Nagpur is one of the largest cities in Maharashtra. Proposed as one of the smart cities of India, this region is a strong commercial and political center from the Vidarbha region. The city was founded in 1703 by the Gonds King Bakht Buland Shah of Deogarh and later became a part of the Maratha Empire under the royal Bhonsale dynasty. The place is also well known for its Nagpur oranges and hence known as the Orange City for its large-scale trading of the fruit widely cultivated in the region. Nagpur was previously known as 'Fanindrapura', a name derived from the word 'Fana' meaning hood of a cobra. The place holds a tremendous political heritage famous for the strong Dalit Buddhist movements. Because of the cosmopolitan nature now, the city's current culture is primarily influenced by various parts of the country. However, it mainly rests on the Vidarbha way of living. Nagpur is particularly acclaimed for the folk dances and songs they have inherited from their ancestors.

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Tribal Lady Bottle Craft Theme

The tribal lady bottle is an innovative artwork made of a small sauce bottle and white M-SEAL. The product is exclusively developed to recognize the importance of our tribal communities who treasures age-old cultures and ethnicities. The bottle holds the shape of a tribal woman dressed in their tribal attire and jewelry. The reason behind the initiative is to exhibit their culture and in this way get more people aware of the Maharashtrian tribes. Mrs. Vaishali H. Kawre is an artisan from Nagpur who preserves this unique art. She is the owner cum trainer at the Creative Craft, Nagpur, who runs the art center for 22 years.

Unique craft made of a glass bottle.

The artisan Mrs. Vaishali H. Kawre and her husband runs Creative Craft at Nagpur.

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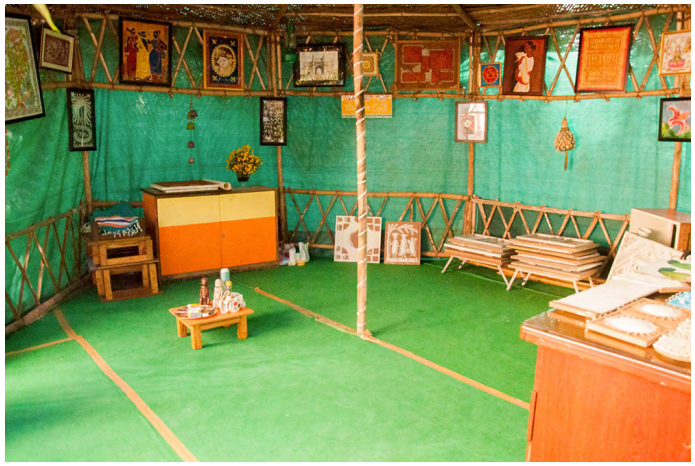

A view of the workplace where the crafts are made.

The nameplate of the craft center.

The transformation of a glass bottle into a beautiful piece of tribal lady.

Artisan engrossed in the making of a tribal lady using a glass bottle.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Following are the tools and raw material required for the making of tribal lady bottle craft:

- **Empty Sauce Bottle:** It is the basic materials used for making tribal lady bottle craft.
- **Adhesive:** It is used to stick the epoxy compound on the bottle.
- **Scissor:** It is used to cut the epoxy compound cover.
- **White Epoxy Compound:** It is used to give the shape of a lady on the bottle.
- **Talcum Powder:** It is mixed with the epoxy compound to get a strong grip and smooth texture.
- **Wooden Roller:** It is used to flatten the mixed epoxy compound.
- **Knife:** It is used to cut the epoxy compound and highlight the curves and shapes on the tribal lady bottle.
- **Empty Pen Refill:** It is used to shape the body parts of the tribal lady bottle accurately.
- **Acrylic Colors:** These are used to paint the epoxy compound.
- **Paint Brush:** It is used as a tool to apply the acrylic colors over the bottle.

A rolling pin is used for rolling the M-SEAL.

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The bottle is the basic material on which a tribal lady art is made.

The adhesive is used for sticking the M-SEAL onto the bottle.

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Talcum powder is used while kneading the M-SEAL to reduce its stickiness.

There are two colours of M-SEAL, which are mixed and used to make this craft.

Acrylic colours are used for enhancing the beauty of the tribal lady bottle art.

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A glimpse of the M-SEAL.

A cup is used to store a required amount of water essential for the making process.

A knife is used for rendering the lines/designs on the M-SEAL.

Paintbrushes are used for colouring purposes.

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Making Process

Firstly, the artisan arranges an empty sauce bottle. Then she empties five packs of an epoxy compound mixed with Talc powder in a bowl for firm solidity and smooth texture. Once it is combined into an appropriate texture, a wooden roller is used to flatten the epoxy compound. Now applying enough adhesive all over the bottom part of the bottle, the flattened epoxy compound is placed over the bottle. These rolls can be of any geometrical shape, cut as per the indented design. For example, rectangle shapes with curvy edges will make the doll's legs, circles, and triangles form jewelry, another thin roll for hips, oval shapes for thighs, etc. Here knife is set to use for removing extra portions as well as highlight curves and shapes used for the doll. The adhesive is also applied to the cap of the sauce bottle, and a much thicker shape of epoxy is attached to the cap, forming the head of the tribal lady doll. The next step will be to ornate the structure, for this, bangles, earrings, and armlets made of epoxy are fixed with adhesive. Towards the end, the artisan uses empty pen refills to correct the body parts as well as ornaments of the tribal lady doll, and then it is left to dry for two hours. Once the epoxy dries artisan uses a paintbrush to colour the complete doll in black acrylic colour. After it gets dry, a shade of copper acrylic colour will also be glossed, thus giving an antique gaze to the final output.

As the first step, brown colour and white colour M-SEA are taken.

Talcum powder is spread on the palm.

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Both the M-SEAL are mixed and kneaded thoroughly.

A point where the M-SEAL are thoroughly mixed.

The mixture is placed on the table.

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Rolling the mixture, using a rolling pin.

The adhesive is applied to the body of the sauce bottle.

Over that M-SEAL is stuck as the base layer.

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The removal of excess M-SEAL.

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After the base layer is done, more adhesive is applied over them to stick to other parts.

On the new Adhesive outlines, more M-SEAL designs are pressed as per the design.

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Using a knife and pen refill the designs are shaped correctly.

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The adhesive is applied to the bottle's cap.

The whole bottle cap is covered with the M-SEAL portion.

Cap being fixed on the bottle's body.

The hair part of the tribal lady being made.

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Lines are drawn with a knife to show the hair strands.

Upon that, again, adhesive is applied.

A round shape M-SEAL is pasted on the cap, which represents the tribal lady's hair bun.

A glimpse of the tribal lady's bun.

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Further the upper part of the body design being done.

The adhesive is applied over them to stick the accessories for the tribal lady.

Maang Tika (Forehead Ornament) and eyebrows being made.

Eyelids are shaped.

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Nose and lips being crafted.

Feet are made and the excess of M-SEAL is removed.

A glimpse of the tribal lady made using the M-SEAL mixture.

Earrings are done.

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Basic colour is applied as an initial step of the colouring process.

A single-coloured tribal lady made over a bottle.

Once the base colour coat is dried, the second colour is applied as per the design requirement.

The completed art piece from the front and back views.

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Products

An artisan named Mrs. Vaishali H. Kawre is the owner cum trainer at the Creative Craft, Nagpur, who runs the art center for 22 years. She sells beautifully finished handicrafts via a marketing medium that needs a customer to call to place orders. Her team is a regular participant at all prominent art exhibitions across the country, which helps build recognition therefore buyers. She is a proud recipient of the Kamagra Mahila Sangathan award. A marathi newspaper, 'Maharashtra Times', organized a workshop for the artisan to teach handicrafts for women in Nagpur, where Mrs. Vaishali was also invited. Though the size of the tribal lady bottle depends on the size of sauce bottles available, its price is always fixed between 300 INR to 350 INR. The center also makes nameplates, lanterns, photo frames, flower vases, mural paintings, and many other different types of painting works.

Single coloured bottle art made at the Creative Craft Center, Nagpur.

Double coloured bottle art.

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The part of the bottle on which the art is created is displayed to present the technique.

The look, once all the parts of the bottle are fixed.

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Front and back views of the tribal lady bottle art.

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Video

Tribal Lady Bottle Craft - Nagpur, Maharashtra - Part 1

Tribal Lady Bottle Craft - Nagpur, Maharashtra - Part 2

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This documentation was done by Professor Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B. at NID, Bengaluru.

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